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December 4, 2003

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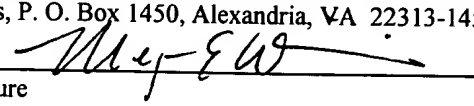

Re: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/719,277
Based on International Application No.: PCT/US99/12929
Applicants: Andrea D. Branch, et al.
Filed: April 13, 2001 I.A. Filing Date: June 9, 1999
Title: *Novel Hepatitis C Virus Peptides and Uses Thereof*
Attorney Docket No.: RII-003CPUS

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Interview Summary dated November 5, 2003, we enclose herewith for filing in the above-referenced case the following:

1. Statement of the Substance of the November 5, 2003 Interview;
2. Prepaid Acknowledgment Postcard.

Please charge any necessary fees to our Deposit Account No. 12-0080. For this purpose, a duplicate of this sheet is enclosed. Applicants request any extensions of time necessary to respond.

<p>"Express Mail" mailing label number <u>EV 354 227 346 US</u></p> <p>Date of Deposit <u>December 4, 2003</u></p> <p>I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</p> <p> Signature</p> <p>Megan E. Williams Please Print Name of Person Signing</p>	<p>Respectfully submitted,</p> <p>LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP</p> <p> Megan E. Williams</p> <p>Reg. No. 43,270</p>
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Andrea D. Branch, *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/719,277
(US National stage of PCT/US99/12929)

I.A. Filing Date: June 9, 1999
Filing Date: April 13, 2001

For: *Novel Hepatitis C Virus Peptides and Uses Thereof*

Attorney Docket No.: RII-003CPUS

Group Art Unit: 1648

Examiner: D. Wortman

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Signature

Megan E. Williams
Please Print Name of Person Signing

STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE
NOVEMBER 5, 2003 INTERVIEW

Dear Sir:

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a personal interview that took place on 5 November, 2003 between Applicants, Andrea Branch and Jose Walewski; Applicants' Attorneys, Elizabeth Hanley and Megan Williams; and Examiner D. Wortman.

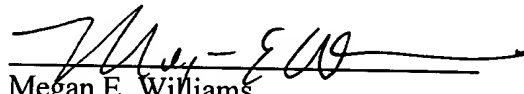
In the interview the Lo et al. 1994, Lo et al. 1995, Xu et al. 2001, and Varaklioti et al. 2002 references, all of record in the case, were discussed.

Applicants presented evidence that the proteins in the references cited by the Examiner are different from those claimed. In addition, Applicants briefly described new findings demonstrating that alternate reading frame proteins are more broadly expressed than originally believed. Applicants' will present further information intended to show that the claims are fully enabled.

CONCLUSION

If a telephone conversation with applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application, the examiner is urged to call applicant's attorney at (617) 227-7400.

Respectfully submitted,



Megan E. Williams
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Dated: **December 4, 2003**